



FY 2006  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
Report

# Water Lines

## What's New

### New Publications:

A draft agenda for the January 18 and 19, 2006, initial scoping workshop on the development of regulations for aircraft public water systems is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/airlinewater/reg\\_meetings.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/airlinewater/reg_meetings.html).

*Getting the Lead Out: A Guide for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools* (EPA816-D-05-001) and information about other actions that EPA plans to take to reduce lead in drinking water in schools and child care facilities are available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lcrmr/schools](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lcrmr/schools).

Information about the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts and Long Term 2 Surface Water Treatment final rules, including copies of the rules, fact sheets, and questions and answers, is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection).

Guidance and tools for implementing the revised standard for arsenic are available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic).

Information about the rule revising the requirements for disposal of treated municipal wastewater below underground sources of drinking water in certain counties in Florida is available at [www.epa.gov/region4/water/uic/class1\\_flrule.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/uic/class1_flrule.htm).

## Did You Know?

The United States has fresh water resources totaling about 660 trillion gallons (American Water Works Association).

### SDW Hotline Report

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#### Top Ten Caller Topics

Topic	Number of Questions	Percent of Total* Questions
Tap Water Testing	341**	12
Local Drinking Water Quality	318	11
Public Notification	166	6
Lead	162	6
Consumer Confidence Reports	133	5
Home Water Treatment Units	127	4
Coliforms	125	4
Household Wells	116	4
Complaints About PWSs	98	3
Stage 2 Rule	96	3

\*A total of 2,848 questions from callers were answered by the Hotline in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of FY 2006.

\*\*Citizens who obtain their drinking water from private household wells asked 11 percent of the tap water testing questions.

#### Calls and ECSS Incidents

Calls***	ECSS Incidents****	Total
2,204	192	2,396

\*\*\*A single call may generate multiple questions.

\*\*\*\* Incidents registered through EPA's Enterprise Customer Service Solution knowledge base at the OGWDW Web site.

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See past reports at

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline>

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: National

Toll-free No.: (800) 426-4791

For More Information Contact:

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(202) 564-4621

Operated by Booz Allen Hamilton

Under Contract #GS-10F-0090J

**Calendar:**

Who?	What?	Where?	When?	More Information
NDWAC	Meeting of the Working Group on the Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule	Washington, DC	October 5-6, 2005	
NDWAC	Public Meeting	Long Beach, CA	November 17-18, 2005	
NDWAC	Meeting of the Working Group on the Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule	Washington, DC	December 15-16, 2005	
EPA	Stage 2 and LT2 Webcast Trainings	Web cast	January 17-26, 2006	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/training.html">www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/training.html</a>
EPA	Initial Scoping Workshop on the Development of Regulations for Aircraft Public Water Systems	Washington, DC	January 18-19, 2006	
NDWAC	Meeting of the Working Group on the Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule	Washington, DC	February 1-2, 2006	
EPA	Drinking Water Security Workshops	Various	On-going	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/security">www.epa.gov/safewater/security</a>
DWA	SDW Regulatory Compliance Training	Various	On-going	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/calendar.html">www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/calendar.html</a>

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## Quarterly Trend

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In preparation for finalization of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, EPA sent out flyers to notify certain sized public water systems (PWSs) of upcoming requirements expected to come into effect soon after the rulemakings became final (see table below). The intent of the flyers was to make PWSs aware that they would likely be required to begin compliance activities within a specified schedule. The flyers were sent to systems serving larger populations (i.e., systems serving 50,000 to 99,999 persons and systems serving 100,000 or more persons) that will have earlier deadlines than smaller sized systems according to the rulemakings. Flyers were also sent out to systems that were connected in some manner to systems of those respective sizes. EPA introduced language in both rulemakings that set deadlines for applicable PWSs in combined distribution systems based on the largest PWS in the combined distribution system so that the submission of materials provided by PWSs within a combined distribution system could be synchronized. Many PWSs were unfamiliar with the requirements and confused regarding the applicability of the deadlines. Many systems claimed the letter was erroneous because they did not fit into the size category outlined in the letters. SDW Hotline staff provided clarification of the applicability of the rule deadlines to systems within a combined distribution system. SDW Hotline staff also worked closely with EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water staff to relay information from PWSs regarding disputes or issues over applicability and system size determinations. The Hotline received 24 questions regarding the Long Term 2 Rule and 96 questions regarding the Stage 2 Rule during the first quarter of FY 2006, a large proportion of which were generated by the letters.

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## Frequently Asked Qs & As

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*This section provides answers to frequently asked questions not necessarily represented in one of the Top Ten Topic categories.*

**Q:** What types of training are available for the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts (Stage 2) Rule and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment (LT2) Rule?

**A:** EPA has scheduled both web-based and in-person trainings to assist in the implementation of these new rules. EPA has scheduled four web casts in January 2006 that are open to the public. These trainings will include an overview on the new rules and guidance tools to assist with any early implementation activities. EPA has also scheduled in-person trainings that cover the requirements of the rules that include workshops to reinforce and practice key concepts. Additional information on LT2 and Stage 2 training is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/training.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/training.html).

**Q:** What are the purpose and options for the requirement in 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart U, to complete an initial distribution system evaluation (IDSE) under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule?

**A:** The IDSE is intended to identify sample locations for Stage 2 compliance monitoring that represent distribution system sites with high disinfection byproduct (i.e., THM and HAA5) concentrations (71 FR 388, 419; January 4, 2006). A system may meet the IDSE requirement by conducting standard monitoring or a system specific study, certifying to the state that they meet the 40/30 certification criteria, or qualifying for a very small system waiver (40 CFR 141.600(d)).

More information about the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2).

**Q:** Under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, a wholesale system or consecutive system must comply with the requirements in 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart U, at the same time as the system with the earliest compliance date in the combined distribution system, unless the state determines otherwise (40 CFR 141.600(c)). What are the definitions of wholesale system, consecutive system, and combined distribution system?

**A:** A wholesale system is a public water system (PWS) that treats source water as necessary to produce

finished water and then delivers some or all of that finished water to another PWS. Delivery may be through a direct connection or through the distribution system of one or more consecutive systems (40 CFR 141.2).

A consecutive system is a PWS that receives some or all of its finished water from one or more wholesale systems. Delivery may be through a direct connection or through the distribution system of one or more consecutive systems (40 CFR 141.2).

A combined distribution system is the interconnected distribution system consisting of the distribution systems of wholesale systems and of the consecutive systems that receive finished water (40 CFR 141.2).

The preamble of the January 4, 2006, final rule discusses these definitions (71 FR 388, 409). The final rule and additional information about the rule are available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2/regulations.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2/regulations.html).

**Q:** What resources are available for public water systems to comply with the revised 0.010 mg/L standard for arsenic by the January 23, 2006, the effective date for the purpose of compliance?

**A:** EPA has designed a Web site to provide guidance materials to help states and water systems comply with the revised arsenic standard. The Web site provides information about the sources and health effects of arsenic, guidance and fact sheets about the rule, tools and training for compliance, guidance for states to implement the rule, information on funding sources, publications, and a link to the Office of Research and Development's arsenic research program. The Web site is URL is [www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic).

**Q:** Can a system request an exemption if it will not be able to comply with the revised arsenic MCL by January 23, 2006?

**A:** A state may grant a three-year exemption to any size system that has demonstrated that it cannot comply with the revised arsenic MCL by January 23, 2006. A system is eligible for an exemption if:

1. It cannot comply with the MCL due to a "compelling factor" such as serving a disadvantaged community.
2. It was in operation before January 23, 2006.
3. The exemption will not result in an "unreasonable risk to health."
4. It cannot reasonably make management or restructuring changes that would result in compliance or improve the quality of the drinking water if compliance is not achieved.

A new system that begins operations after January 23, 2006, must show that it has “no reasonable alternative source of drinking water” as well as meeting all other eligibility criteria in order to qualify for an exemption.

A system that serves less than 3,300 individuals may request an extension of the initial exemption of up to six years if the system continues to be eligible for an exemption (40 CFR 142.20(b), 40 CFR 142.50(a)(1)). Implementation guidance concerning arsenic exemptions is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/guidance.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/guidance.html).

**Q:** Is there a national list of all state certified laboratories that analyze drinking water?

**A:** Information concerning state-certified drinking water laboratories is available from the state certification officer. The contact information for each state is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/labs](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/labs).

**Q:** Is blue-green algae regulated in drinking water?

**A:** Cyanobacteria or blue-green algae is not regulated by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), other freshwater algae, and their toxins are listed on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List 2 (CCL2). The CCL is the primary source of priority contaminants on which EPA conducts research to make decisions regarding whether regulations are needed. The contaminants on the list are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems. The CCL alone does not impose any requirements on public water systems. However, EPA may regulate contaminants on the list in the future. More information about the CCL is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl).

**Q:** How does distillation work and what contaminants will it remove from my drinking water?

**A:** Distillation is an effective water treatment technology for commercial and household use. When water is purified by distillation, it is boiled in a container and the steam is sent into cooling tubes. The steam is condensed and then collected as purified water in a second container. The impurities in the water are left behind in the first container and can be discarded. The distillation process removes almost all impurities from water. Distillers are commonly used for removing nitrates, bacteria, sodium, hardness, dissolved solids, most organic compounds, and lead. Contaminants that easily turn into gases, such as gasoline components or radon, may remain in the water unless the system is specifically designed to remove them. Distilled water may taste flat to some people because the water's natural minerals and dissolved oxygen often have been

removed (*Water Health Series: Filtration Facts*, EPA816-K-05-002; September, 2005). More filtration facts are available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/pdfs/fs\\_healthseries\\_filtration.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/pdfs/fs_healthseries_filtration.pdf).

**Q:** How can I determine if my state has primary responsibility (primacy) for the UIC program?

**A:** EPA has the ability to implement the UIC program through one of its regional offices, to authorize states to implement the program, or to share the responsibility. Information regarding primacy allocation for each state or Native American tribe, is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/primacy.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/primacy.html).

### Quarterly Summary of Hotline Service

Total number of calls answered	2,204
Total number of ECSS incidents	192
Average wait time (in seconds)	0:42
Percent of calls satisfied immediately	99.9%
Percent of all calls answered in < 5 min	94.4%
Percent of callbacks answered in 5 days	100%
Number of times callers were transferred to the WSC Wellcare Hotline	671
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about CCRs	397
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about local drinking water quality for PWS customers	490
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about tap water testing and quality for household well owners	352
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about tap water testing for PWS customers	679

### Comparison to Previous Year

	Calls	Electronic Correspondences*
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 2006	2,204	192
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 2005	2,635	307

\*Method of electronic correspondence changed from e-mail to the EPA ECSS system in November 2004.

### Top Ten Referrals

Inquiry Referred to:	Number of Referrals	Percent of Total* Referrals
State Lab Certification	246	17
Local Water System	237	17
EPA Internet	218	15
State PWSS	193	14
NSF/WQA/UL	109	8
Combined Regions	67	5
Other Hotlines	56	4
AGWT/WSC	43	3
Other	37	3
Local Public Health	34	2

\*A total of 1,428 referrals to other resources, agencies, and organizations were provided by the Hotline in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of FY 2006.

### Customer Profiles

Customer	Calls
Analytical Laboratories	15
Citizen - Private Well	165
Citizen - PWS	1,415
Consultants/Industry/Trade (DW)	116
Consultants/Industry/Trade (Other)	36
Environmental Groups	2
EPA	25
Other Federal Agency	11
Government, Local	15
Government, State	40
Government, Tribal	1
Spanish Speaking	25
International	18
Media	8
Medical Professional	10
Public Water System	206
Schools/University	31
Other	65
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,204</b>

### ECSS Incident Topics

Topic	Number of Incidents
Analytical Methods	14
Arsenic	2
Bottled Water	5
Compliance/Issues (PWS)	7
Consumer Concerns	19
Contaminants and Standards	25
Definitions	5
Facts, Figures, and Databases	11
Household Wells	33
Other	35
Local Drinking Water Quality	20
Source Water Protection	7
Tap Water Testing	6
Underground Injection Control	2
Water Security	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>192</b>

## Caller Question Topics

Topics	Number of Questions
<b>Microbials/Disinfection Byproducts</b>	
Chlorine	27
Coliforms	125
Cryptosporidium	23
Disinfection/Disinfection Byproducts (Other)	52
Long Term 2 ESWTR	24
Other Microbials	29
Stage 2 D/DBPR	96
Surface Water Treatment (SWTR, ESWTR, LT1FBR)	16
Trihalomethane (THM)	26
<b>Inorganic Chemicals (IOC)/Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC)</b>	
Arsenic	35
Fluoride	20
Methyl- <i>tertiary</i> -butyl-ether (MTBE)	2
Perchlorate	0
Phase I, II & V	20
Sodium Monitoring	3
Sulfate	3
<b>Lead and Copper</b>	
Copper	23
Lead	162
Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA)/Lead Ban	6
<b>Radionuclides</b>	
Radionuclides (Other)	19
Radionuclides (Radon)	57
<b>Secondary DW Regulations</b>	
Secondary DW Regulations	72
<b>SDWA Background/Overview</b>	
Definitions & Applicability	26
MCL List	92
Other Background	43
SDWA	65

Topics	Number of Questions
Water on Tap	5
<b>Other DW Regulations</b>	
Analytical Methods (DW)	21
Contaminant Candidate List/ Drinking Water Priority List	6
Consumer Confidence Report (DW)	133
DW Primacy (PWS)	2
Operator (PWS) Certification	7
Other Drinking Water Security	8
Public Notification (PWS)	166
Security Planning Grants	0
State Revolving Fund (DW)	2
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)	18
<b>Other Drinking Water</b>	
Additives Program	8
Bottled Water	60
Complaints about PWS	98
Compliance & Enforcement (PWS)	39
Disinfection – Home Water	19
Home Water Treatment Units	127
Infrastructure/Cap. Development	11
Local DW Quality	318
Storage – Home Water	6
Tap Water Testing	341
Treatment/BATs (DW)	15
<b>Drinking Water Source Protection</b>	
Ground Water Rule	9
Sole Source Aquifer	5
Source Water/Wellhead Protection	19
UIC Program	16
<b>Out of Purview</b>	
Household Wells	116
Non-Environmental	40
Non-EPA Environmental	77
Other EPA (Programs)	90
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,848</b>

### EPA DISCLAIMER

Answers to questions in the Safe Drinking Water Hotline quarterly report are intended to be purely informational and are based on SDWA provisions, EPA regulations, guidance, and established policy effective at the time of publication. The answers given reflect EPA staff's best judgment at the time and do not represent a final or official EPA interpretation. This report does not substitute for the applicable provisions of statutes and regulations, guidance, etc., nor is it a regulation itself. Thus, it does not impose legally-binding requirements on EPA, States, or the regulated community. An answer to a question in this report may be revised at any time to reflect EPA's revisions to existing regulations, changes in EPA's approach to interpreting its regulations or statutory authority, or for other reasons. EPA may provide a different answer to a question in this report in the future.

Also, an answer provided in this report may not apply to a particular situation based upon the circumstances. Any decisions regarding a particular case will be made based on the applicable statutes and regulations. Therefore, interested parties are free to raise questions and objections about the appropriateness of the application of an answer in this report to a particular situation, and EPA will consider whether or not the recommendations or interpretations in the answer are accurate and appropriate in that situation. The information in this report is not intended, nor can it be relied upon, to create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the United States.

**SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE QUARTERLY REPORT**  
**First Quarter FY 2006**

**APPENDIX A: FEDERAL REGISTER SUMMARIES**

**FINAL RULES**

**“Underground Injection Control Program – Revision to the Federal Underground Injection Control Requirements for Class I Municipal Disposal Wells in Florida”  
November 22, 2005 (70 FR 70513)**

This final rule amends the current federal Underground Injection Control (UIC) requirements by providing a regulatory alternative to owners and operators of Class I municipal disposal wells in specific areas of Florida that have caused or may cause movement of fluid into an Underground Source of Drinking Water (USDW). Because operation of Class I wells with fluid movement into a USDW is prohibited by federal UIC regulations, this new rule offers owners and operators of municipal disposal wells in certain counties in Florida the ability to continue to operate their wells provided they meet additional wastewater treatment requirements. These new treatment requirements, which apply only to injection operations in certain counties of Florida, are designed to provide an equivalent level of protection to USDWs that is afforded by the no-fluid-movement standard. This regulation is effective December 22, 2005.

**NOTICES**

**“Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council – Notice of Public Meeting”  
October 25, 2005 (70 FR 61614)**

EPA gave notice for a meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC or Council). The principal items on the Agenda for this meeting include a report from the Council's Working Group on the near-term efforts to revise performance measures and indicators for the drinking water program; a presentation and discussion of the water program's sustainable infrastructure initiative; and an update on the implementation of the recommendations in the Report on Water Security Practices, Incentives, and Measures, which the Council sent to EPA's Administrator in June 2005. The meeting, which was held on November 17 and 18, 2005, in Long Beach, California, was open to the public.

**“Public Water System Supervision Program Revisions for the State of Indiana”  
November 1, 2005 (70 FR 65899)**

Indiana has revised its Public Notification Rule, its Lead and Copper Rule Minor Revisions Rule, its Analytical Methods for Chemical and Microbiological Contaminants and revisions to Laboratory Certification Requirements, its revisions to Analytical Methods for Radionuclides Rule, and its Removal of the Prohibition on the Use of Point of Use Devices for compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations Rule. EPA has determined that these revisions by the state are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve these revisions to the state of Indiana's Public Water System Supervision Program effective December 1, 2005. This approval action does not extend to public water systems in Indian Country.



**"Safe Drinking Water Act Determination; Underground Injection Control Program, Determination of Indian Country Status for Purposes of Underground Injection Control Program Permitting"**  
**November 2, 2005 (70 FR 66402)**

EPA must determine whether any of the approximately 160 acres of land located in the southeast portion of Section 8, Township 16N, Range 16W, in the state of New Mexico, is part of a dependent Indian community under 18 U.S.C. 1151(b) and, thus, considered to be "Indian country." This determination is necessary in order to establish whether EPA or the New Mexico Environment Department is the appropriate agency to issue a particular underground injection control permit under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA is seeking comments and information from the public and all interested parties regarding the possible Indian country status of this land and is considering whether to hold a public hearing on the matter.

**"National Drinking Water Advisory Council's Working Group on Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule Meeting Announcement"**  
**November 4, 2005 (70 FR 67167)**

EPA is announcing the second public meeting of the Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council on the Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule (WGPE). The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for the WGPE members to continue discussions on the public education requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule. The second meeting of the WGPE was held in Washington, DC, on December 15 and 16, 2005.

**"Public Water System Supervision Program Revisions for the State of Michigan"**  
**November 14, 2005 (70 FR 69151)**

Michigan is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. Michigan has revised its administrative penalty authority for public water systems; adopted the Consumer Confidence Report Rule, which requires annual drinking water quality reports from all community water systems; adopted the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, which will help improve control of microbial pathogens in drinking water; adopted the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, which will set new requirements to limit the formation of chemical disinfection byproducts in drinking water; and adopted the Public Notification Rule, which revises the general public notification regulations (sets requirements for public water systems to follow regarding the form, manner, frequency, and content of a public notice). EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve these program revisions effective December 14, 2005.

**"Safe Drinking Water Act Determination; Underground Injection Control Program, Determination of Indian Country Status for Purposes of Underground Injection Control Program Permitting"**  
**December 15, 2005 (70 FR 74318)**

On November 2, 2005, EPA published a notice of prospective determination of the Indian country status of approximately 160 acres of land located in the southeast portion of Section 8, Township 16N, Range 16W, in the state of New Mexico (70 FR 66402). That notice requests public input regarding whether the Section 8 land is part of a dependent Indian community under



18 U.S.C. 1151(b) and, thus, considered to be “Indian country.” This determination is necessary in order to establish whether EPA or the New Mexico Environment Department is the appropriate agency to issue a particular underground injection control permit under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA sought responses to the notice by January 3, 2006. In response to requests from the public seeking additional time to fully analyze the issues, gather requested information, and prepare comments, the period for submitting comments and information was extended to January 31, 2006.

**"Notice of an Initial Scoping Workshop on the Development of Regulations for Aircraft Public Water Systems"**  
**December 28, 2005 (70 FR 76815)**

EPA is holding an initial workshop on the development of regulations for aircraft public water systems. This workshop will examine and discuss the various aspects of aircraft public water systems, including an overview of aircraft water systems and watering points, existing drinking water regulations for aircraft water systems, the scope of issues for proposing regulations tailored to aircraft water systems, as well as preliminary options for a proposed rulemaking. This workshop is the first in a series designed to gain perspectives from representatives from industry, government, public interest groups, and the general public. EPA has been working with the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration to plan this event. The workshop will be held January 18 and 19, 2006, in Washington, DC.